

Leicester,
Friday, Apr. 4/73

Dear Mr. Garrison,

It was good & pleasant to get a letter from you; but I felt, all the way thro' it, as if you were bestowing too much time upon us and tasking yourself too heavily. You touch^d on many topics, all interesting to us, and tho' your letter is only written in pencil, it is well worthy of preservation, and far more careful in preparation, to all appearance, than many books. — I have known of your wife's ill-health, & that at one time she was thought too ill to recover. Thro' Mr. Wallcut I kept informed about her; for I was not willing to send a letter of inquiry to you, wh. w^d subject you to the necessity of an answer, when I knew that every minute of y^r. time must be occupied. I am very glad to hear about the method of her relief, & that she is so comfortable again, and able to be about with the family. — I had not known that you were yourself so poorly as you ~~describe~~ describe, and am truly grieved to know of it. — I have been unusually

confined at home myself, by several
circumstances; in the first place my
mother has been more than 2 months with
us, and I have not liked to be away while
she was here, and have made every absence as
short as possible - doing the needful things, and
returning at once. Then our Public Library has
been removed into new quarters, and I have
had a good deal to do with that; and am
now at work upon a Catalogue. I have
also prepared a Sketch of the Life of my Uncle
Joseph May (S. J. M.'s father) for the Hist. Genealog.
Society, by request of their Secretary; & shall send
you a copy when I get them. I was limited to
ten pages or so, & had to condense accordingly.

The S. J. M. Memoir, as you say, is out,
and I have a copy here. I subscribed for a number,
& have sent for them to come here, that I might
distribute them. I expected them yesterday, but
they have not yet come. I wish & mean to
send you one of them. If it is your intention
to purchase any, had you not better do it

through me, as I can obtain them on my right as one of the Coms. of preparation at a great reduction, - and will be happy to get you such number as you wish for at same rate I have them. If you will let me know what number, - one, two, or more - I can wait a few days, I will get them for you.

I do earnestly hope you will have health & strength to prepare the autobiography which has been solicited of you. I first saw your reply in the Boston Transcript, & subsequently C. Johnson sent me a copy in note form. I have no doubt it will shape itself well, when you come to write, & though your memory will not supply all, nor in the exact order, perhaps, yet with the Liberator as a Chronicle, & others of the A. S. publications to guide you, you will be enabled to verify dates, & make a most ^{interesting} ~~valuable~~ & valuable book.

As to the Charles Sumner matter, I could not help feeling he had invited censure by his course last summer, nor did I see how ~~the~~ a Republican Legislature could well withhold

it. But it seemed to me that they made a
strange botch of it. They really meant (as I
suppose) to censure his desertion of the Republican
Standard last year, and ^{his} giving his aid and
influence to help make a President ^{of one} who was the
candidate of the Democratic Party and of the
Rebel Element of the South. With a severe
rebuke for his course there, I should have had
great sympathy. I said, before the November
election, that if I were a member of the legislature,
& the question of his re-election were then to come
up, I could not and I would not vote for Charles
Sumner; - so deeply offended did I feel with his
political course & attitude. I think the Legist.
made a blunder in seizing on his battle flag resolves
as the occasion of censure; and as it was known
that ~~the~~ ^{he} contemplated only the ^{U.S.} Army
flags, it seemed to make it even less worthy of
their consideration. But there was a deeper
feeling than that, behind their action the other day.
They felt that Sumner had, petulantly and
unreasonably, thrown his weight into the
Democratic scale last fall, hazarding all
that the last 12 years had gained, and

greatly endangering our Nation's Future - and, so feeling, they wouldn't back down, nor be backed down, from the ~~their~~ position which, though technically it might be weak, essentially was correct and vital. I was not much troubled by the result, while I would have liked it all better, if, from the very first, he had been censured on the real grounds.

I confess, too, I did feel, in view of the miserable behaviour of the last Congress, on the Credit Mobilier, on the Back Pay votes, &c. that it was mortifying ^{the Map. Legist.} they could find nobody else to censure but Charles Sumner, - a man whose hand is as clean from stain of bribe, & whose soul is as far above the influence of money-considerations, as those of any other living American. I was, as you will see, a little divided therefore; having been vastly vexed with Sumner for his political course, and yet sure of his personal integrity and honor. He has not a very good temper, and it has not of late years improved. As I remember what you were reported to have said about him, I did not greatly differ from it.

My wife has been making a visit in
Boston & Dorchester for some weeks; and,
as I know, has made several attempts
to get to your house; but she has to depend
on riding, for she cannot get about on foot in
the snow, &c. and had not, at last hearing,
been able to see Mr. Garrison, or other friends
in your vicinity. I hope she will get there,
before her return home.

Mr. Samuel Haughton kindly
sent me several Dublin papers in relation
to his father. I knew he had, of course, sent
the like to you; or I should have forwarded
mine. I tried to get the "Chr. Register"
to insert some sketch of him; but, as yet, there
has been a brief paragraph only. S. Haughton
also wrote me a long & kindly letter, repenting
from something I said ^{*} of England's attitude towards
us in our late war. I replied to him, &
vindicated ~~the~~ ground I had taken. I don't
^{know} how my reply will suit him. I have a
^{*} In my sketch of Richard D. Webb.

great mind to send you his letter to me.
 - I am sure he will be very glad of what
 you have written of his father, & will be
 sure to get it published.

Yes - Joseph May sailed for Fayal on
 last Tuesday; and by an arrangement made
 only a few days before, his wife went with
 him. His constitution is slender; but I
 believe there was no marked falling off, in
 in his case. A rather debilitated state of
 body, fatigue from steady work, and a
 favorable opportunity for rest, &c, seemed to
 combine to lure him away, for a while.

I am very glad that you have such
 good news from Fanny & her little family,
 and am sorry that constraining circum-
 stances separate her & hers so far from you.
 - We have very good accounts from Edward,
 his wife, & their little boy (born in last
 November), & have reason to believe they are
 very happy.

I read aloud to my Mother your letter,

greatly to her gratification. She is reading
S. J. M.'s Memoir very attentively.

I shall be eager & anxious to know
what you think of that book. It is, I think,
in very many respects, a charming book;
and I believe will do an excellent work
among our young people. To me it seems
to be lacking in some respects; but I shall
not go into any detail of them now, nor
seem to wish to anticipate any remarks
of yours about it.

Please give my Mother's very
affectionate regards to your wife, and
mine also; and accept the same
from us for yourself. Ade. too
joins in kind remembrance.

Your friend,

Samuel May

My package of "Memoirs" has come, and
I despatch one to you by same mail with this.